



Alliance

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
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years

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

A message from the dean

Wow, what a year! Where do I begin? I have only enough space in my column to hit a few high points. The rest is contained in the pages of this issue of Alliance.

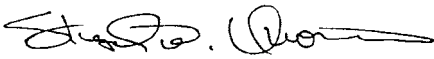
This year, we have had a record enrollment of 743 degree-seeking students, of which roughly 60 percent are at the master's and doctoral levels. The number of new faculty and staff positions has also increased in the past few years to help accommodate this growth that has also been supported by the high-tech teaching and laboratory space in our new building. This growth has resulted in the UNC Board of Governors granting a change in status from the School of Allied Health Sciences to the College of Allied Health Sciences — a fitting tribute on the 40th anniversary of our establishment. To celebrate our anniversary, we honored 41 distinguished alumni at our Oct. 27 homecoming event, held in our new building before a receptive crowd of 151 alumni, family, friends, faculty and retired faculty. What a great event, one we plan to repeat during homecoming this year.

Growth has occurred in other areas of the college as well, including our new Office of Research headed by our new associate dean for research, Dr. David Cistola, who holds medical and doctoral degrees. Dave came to us after 14 years as a National Institutes of Health researcher at Washington University in St. Louis. He has hired a grants and contracts administrator, and since his arrival July 1, Dave has effectively worked with faculty to significantly increase grant proposal submissions. This increased level of research excellence is also noted in The Chronicle of Higher Education, where Academic Analytics ranked the research productivity of faculty in the doctoral program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders ninth in the nation.

The growth doesn't stop there. Our new full-time director of development, Patrice Frede, who joined the college last spring, facilitated record giving to allied health sciences to support its nine departments, the college, student scholarships and student leadership development.

Other significant events such as the third annual Research Day between the College of Allied Health Sciences and the Pitt County Memorial Hospital Regional Rehabilitation Center, the fourth annual Mills Health Symposium on rural health issues held Feb. 15-16 and other events too numerous to mention here will be highlighted throughout this issue of Alliance.

I sincerely thank all of you who have helped create a historic foundation of excellence. We are not just getting bigger, we're getting better. Our outstanding faculty, staff, students and alumni have made us what we are today: a college we can all be proud of, a future we can all share and a legacy on which we will build a better tomorrow. And tomorrow starts here, together.



Stephen W. Thomas, Ed.D.
Dean and Professor



Stephen W. Thomas, Ed.D.

Information revolution2

Alumnae profile: Mother and daughter graduate from same department 31 years apart

Preventing falls in older adults4

Occupational and physical therapy lead studies in role of exercise in reducing falls

I am an ECU allied health sciences student.....7

Hearing is believing8

Cochlear implant program puts sound back into people's lives

Governor of grants.....11

David Cistola supports faculty researchers, increases collaborative projects

Running for life.....12

ECU, Furman University study running through the ages

Four decades old14

Remembering the past, embracing the future in the College of Allied Health Sciences

Alumni profiles18

A graduate from each program shares their life and career experience

Charting a new course26

Pat Frede leads alumni development and fundraising efforts

Rural health needs27

Mills symposium examines access and funding

Class notes30

New faculty, retiring faculty32

On the cover: More than 400 images of the history, events and people of the College of Allied Health Sciences grace the front of the 40th anniversary edition.



Mother & daughter

By Crystal Baity

Kim Bell has been part of a health care revolution since graduating in 1975 from East Carolina University. Her oldest daughter, Nikki Bell, graduated in 2006 but is already seeing changes in health information management.

They are the only known mother and daughter to graduate, albeit 31 years apart, from ECU's health services and information management department.

"The thing I tell my students is, if nothing else, health information

management has been an outstanding area of work," said Kim Bell, who has been chair of the health information management department at Edgewood Community College in Tarboro since 1996. "It is very challenging and never a dull moment. Regulations change, case law changes, diagnoses change and treatment protocols change. There have probably been more changes in the past 10 years than in the past 40 years."

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The management of patient records and the way they are stored, shared and transmitted, the passage of federal regulations such as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act that help guide the care of those records, and



do the best and pushes her students to their fullest potential and never gives up on them. I am sure if it wasn't for her helping them to open doors, some would not have the great positions and opportunities they have now."

Bell's department offers the only full online-degree granting program at ECC. It is one of only eight accredited health information technology programs in North Carolina. Her students had a 100 percent pass rate on the most recent national credentialing exam.

"Being a totally online program, it's opened doors and pathways for people who may not be able to be here physically," Bell said. "We are seeing increasingly sophisticated students entering our online program and with great results." Several students applied after their previous jobs were eliminated. Others left jobs that didn't suit them.

Her daughter was one who discovered the profession after trying another. Nikki Bell, who graduated with a double major in health services management and health



Kim Bell, left, and Nikki Bell, both of Ayden, are the only known mother and daughter to graduate from ECU's health services and information management department. At center left, Nikki Bell celebrates passing her Registered Health Information Administrator credentialing exam. At top left, Kim Bell thumbs through a scrapbook of her college days, sharing a photograph of her cheerleading stunt.

information management, planned to go into veterinary medicine but had a change of heart after beginning studies at N.C. State University. "I knew I wanted to be on the back burner, not dealing with patients on the front line," she said.

Working as a coder and auditor with East Carolina Neurology in Greenville is a perfect job. She reviews clinic charts and audits charts for diagnoses, reviews procedures for medical necessity, verifies diagnosis codes under Medicare policies, audits and bills East Carolina Neurology's physician consultations at hospitals and clinics, and checks other data for accuracy and quality.

She credits her mom with giving her an overview of the profession, which really took hold at ECU.

"Once I started the program, I really understood what she was talking about and learned how health information management was so diverse and how many opportunities were out there in this profession," Bell said. "I knew that coding was at the forefront and that was where I wanted to start. I am glad that I followed some advice from my mom for once and really see the big road ahead."



Preventing falls in Older Adults

By Crystal Baily

Practicing Tai Chi twice a week has improved 90-year-old Herbert “Bud” Consor’s balance and, in turn, decreased his chance of falling.

“It’s helping me,” said the retired mechanical engineer.

Consor is one of about 30 residents at Greenville’s Cypress Glen Retirement



Community taking a Tai Chi class taught by East Carolina University occupational therapy graduate students who are studying exercise’s role in reducing falls in older adults.

The study is part of several research and community service projects on exercise and fall prevention in older adults conducted by an interdisciplinary team from the occupational and physical therapy departments in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

Consor uses a walker, but maintains mental and physical agility by walking and cycling about a mile each day. He has survived three strokes, one heart attack and heart bypass surgery, surpassing the life expectancy of most men in his family. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather all died at age 59.

Cherie Newton of Raleigh and Joni Long of Wallburg, second-year occupational therapy graduate students, have seen improvement in seniors in their Tai Chi class. They are able to do daily activities more easily and many are more confident

in walking without losing their balance.

“You can tell their balance is better. Some are bending farther down. Their range of motion is better,” Newton said. “It’s really a holistic exercise.”

Tai Chi is a great exercise for older adults because it features slow, controlled movements ideal for efficiently working muscles. Participants can stand or sit and progress at their own pace. It increases endurance, coordination, range of motion, upper and lower body strength and reduces stress and depression.

Carolyn Armitage, 86, said she loves the class. “It’s helping me with my balance,” said Armitage, who is building muscle strength in her right leg left weak by bone grafting following an earlier hip replacement.

Research into falls

Dr. Jane Painter, associate professor of occupational therapy, and her students also are investigating the relationship between depression and exercise. In a pilot study last fall, they measured depression in seniors before and after participation in a four-week Tai Chi class. Before starting the class, four people were found to have mild to moderate depression. But after four weeks of exercise, tests showed they were no longer depressed, Painter said.

In an earlier study, Painter surveyed senior adults to see if anxiety and depression are related to a fear of falling. A concurrent study by Dr. Leslie Allison, assistant professor of physical therapy, explored the relationship between actual balance abilities and fear of falling.

Volunteers for both studies completed several surveys to gauge their levels of anxiety, depression and fear of falling. They performed two physical performance tests that included balance-challenging activities such as picking up an

object, stepping over a curb and walking rapidly around objects.

Painter found that fear of falling is very strongly correlated to depression and anxiety. Allison’s study revealed that while actual balance ability is related to fear of falling, balance ability is more strongly correlated with the activity restriction that often occurs as a consequence of fear of falling.

“So, fear of falling doesn’t have a single cause,” Allison said. “Both your emotional

Cause for concern

Falls are the leading cause of accidental death in older adults. Nationally, one in three people age 65 and older will fall each year. About 5 percent of falls result in hip fractures. And of those, nine out of 10 who have a hip fracture will survive but half will never regain their previous mobility. Many go from independence to assisted living.

“It’s an enormous problem,” Allison said.

Nationally, falls are responsible for more than 70 percent of visits to the emergency room by people over age 75.

Locally, Pitt County Memorial Hospital’s emergency department last year treated almost 1,200 adults age 60 or older for fall-related injuries. Of those, more than 100 died as a result of a fall and almost 500 had major injuries, Allison said.



Seniors participate in a Tai Chi class at Cypress Glen Retirement Center in Greenville. Exercise has been shown to improve balance and reduce the risk of falls in older adults.

state and your actual balance abilities influence how fearful you’ll be. Fear of falling is problematic because many people who are fearful of falling self-restrict their activities and this makes them more sedentary and consequently more at risk for falls.”

Reduced physical activity leads to increased risk of falls because sedentary people become weaker, stiffer and have a lower endurance and poorer balance, Allison said.

Education and service

Painter and Allison have teamed up with colleagues from different disciplines to develop and implement ways to provide care and education services geared at reducing falls.

Through their participation in the older adults health subcommittee of the Pitt Partners for Health, Painter and Allison formed the Eastern North Carolina Falls Task Force last April. Task force members

include professionals from area health care, exercise and senior service agencies.

“The task force is truly a community-based effort to reduce the number of falls and subsequent injuries as well as the fear of falling,” Painter said.

A four-pronged strategy is under way: teach health care workers how to assess risk for falls, set up an automatic referral system, establish a network of intervention programs and develop community-based education programs for older adults and

How to reduce your risk of falls:

Exercise has been shown to reduce the risk of falls by 30 to 50 percent in older adults. “Balance exercise is the number one thing you can do to reduce your risk of falls,” Allison said.

A review of medications could help reduce fall risk as well. While many older adults must take medications, some medications have fewer side effects that alter balance, Allison said.

Taking four or more drugs increases a person’s risk of falling about two times and taking five to nine drugs quadruples the risk. Taking any drug

such as anti-depressants, sleeping pills or prescription pain killers that affect the central nervous system substantially increases the risk of falls. “The more you take, the higher the risk,” Allison said.

She cautioned that no one should start an exercise program or modify medications without clearance from a physician.

Seniors also can reduce fall risk by having a home safety evaluation. Homes can be made safer by removing scatter rugs and other trip hazards and installing hand rails, ramps and adequate lighting.

community agencies who serve seniors, Painter said.

Allison and Painter along with Dr. Ken Steinweg, professor and head of the geriatric division in the Department of Family Medicine in the Brody School of Medicine, and Paula Josey, assistant director of nursing education for the Eastern Area Health Education Center, recently received

a grant to train rural primary care providers on how to test an older person’s susceptibility for falls. The project was one of seven funded through a block grant with Carolina Geriatric Education Center and is the only one in the state focusing on fall prevention and intervention, Painter said.

Task force members also are seeking funding to start a new program called

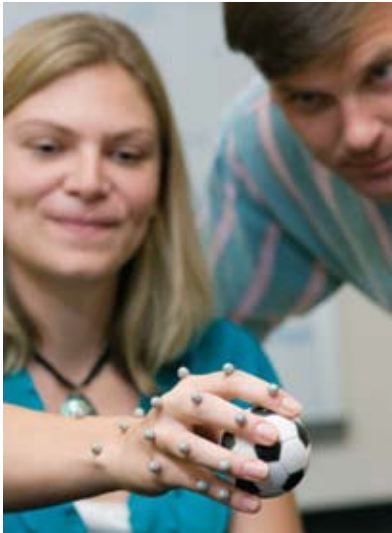
Fall-ER, an emergency room screening and evaluation clinic. The program would focus on older adults admitted to and discharged from the Pitt County Memorial Hospital emergency department. Seniors judged to be at high risk for future falls would be automatically referred to an ECU Falls Risk Assessment Clinic, which would be set up as part of the program, where they would get a comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation and follow-up by physical and occupational therapists and a geriatric physician.

Lastly, the task force would like to develop community-based, multidisciplinary intervention and education programs to help seniors reduce their risk of falls. “We’d like to develop a network of balance exercise programs out in the community, starting in Pitt County and expanding to the surrounding eastern North Carolina counties,” Allison said. 📍

Seniors interested in participating in ECU’s balance and fall prevention studies can contact Dr. Leslie Allison at 744-6236 or Dr. Jane Painter at 744-6194.



Occupational therapy graduate student Joni Long of Wallburg leads a semiweekly exercise class.



I am an ECU allied health sciences student

Applied for undergraduate admission: 204

Admitted to undergraduate program: 138 (does not include second year students)

Applied for graduate admission: 958

Admitted for graduate program: 162

Total number applicants to all programs: 1,162

Total number accepted to all programs including distance education: 308

Students are from:

Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia

Female students: 595

Male students: 148

Total number of students: 743

Baccalaureate degrees held by graduate students: biology, chemistry, exercise physiology, exercise and sports science, psychology, recreation therapy

Average GPA admitted into undergraduate program: 3.3

Average GPA admitted into graduate program: 3.4

White students: 79 percent

Minority students: 21 percent

Other important statistics:

Approximately 60 percent of students are enrolled in master’s or doctoral programs; more than 88 percent of past graduates stayed in North Carolina for employment

By Doug Boyd

Kendrick Hill has a lot to say about his new cochlear implant.

"It kind of like saved my life," Hill said recently. He can now hear music lyrics and telephone conversations and talk with his friends and co-workers.

"How does that make me feel? That makes me feel good after all these years," he said.

A team of specialists with the Cochlear Implant Program of Eastern Carolina is helping restore the hearing of eastern North Carolina residents such as Hill. The team comprises the Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic at the East Carolina University College of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Bradley Brechtelsbauer with Eastern Carolina ENT-Head & Neck Surgery, and speech and audiology professionals at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. The program is also giving valuable experience to audiology and speech-language pathology students.

More than 70 people have received implants since the program began in 1999. They range in age from 16 to 90 years old. According to Food and Drug Administration 2005 data, nearly 22,000 U.S. adults and nearly 15,000 children have received them.

"A cochlear implant positively affects the patient and his or her family," said Dr. Gregg Givens, chairman of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at ECU, of which the clinic is a part. "It's the most rewarding thing I have done . . . in 35 years of clinical audiology. It has such an impact on patients' lives."

Cochlear implants are small, complex electronic devices that can help provide a sense of sound to a person who has severe to profound hearing loss. They consist of an external portion that sits behind the ear and an internal portion surgeons place under the skin along with an electrode array that curls around the cochlea.

An implant has a microphone, which picks up sound from the environment; a processor, which selects and arranges sounds picked up by the microphone; a

Hearing is believing

Cochlear implant program puts
sound back into people's lives

transmitter and receiver/stimulator, which receive signals from the processor and convert them into electric impulses; and an electrode array, which collects impulses from the stimulator and sends them to different regions of the auditory nerve.

Adults who have lost all or most of their hearing learn to associate the signal provided by an implant with sounds they remember. Doing so often allows them to understand speech solely by listening through the implant, though visual cues such as lip-reading or sign language can still be important.

"They give us a way to connect people back to the world," Brechtelsbauer said. "To hear a 78-year-old say 'You've given me my life back' is very compelling."

With the cochlear implant program, candidates first see Brechtelsbauer. He then refers them to the ECU clinic for a comprehensive evaluation. They then go back to Brechtelsbauer for a final exam.

Brechtelsbauer performs surgery at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and patients typically spend one night in the hospital. Once the implant area has healed sufficiently, usually four to six weeks later, Dr. Sharon Rutledge, an audiologist and ECU clinical professor, activates the implant. Patients return to the ECU Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic periodically during the next 12 months for processor programming and aural rehabilitation. After that, they return at least once a year for follow-up visits.

Inset photo right, Kendrick Hill of Faison talks about the difference the cochlear implant has made in his life. Right, Kate Kennedy of Winterville heard her husband snore for the first time after receiving her implant. At top, cochlear implants bypass damaged parts of the ear to directly stimulate the auditory nerve. Kennedy's implant is periodically checked.





The total cost can be as much as \$100,000. Some insurance plans cover part or all the cost.

“This team is tremendous,” Brechtelsbauer said. “They’re very committed, do a wonderful job and have great leadership under Dr. Givens. It really requires an entire team, and our team works very well together.”

Hill, 31, began losing his hearing at age 12. After years of further deterioration in his hearing and tired of unreliable hearing aids, he received a cochlear implant in June. Rutledge activated it in July.

“Whoom, it was like I was able to hear,” said Hill, who lives in Faison. “All that stuff I had been praying for all these years. It’s just been a blessing.”

It might be more than a blessing. “It’s hooking me up with a couple of girls,” Hill added.

Cochlear implants differ from hearing aids, which amplify sounds so damaged ears can detect them. Cochlear implants bypass damaged portions of the ear and directly stimulate the auditory nerve. Signals the implant generates travel through the auditory nerve to the brain,

which recognizes the signals as sound. Hearing through a cochlear implant is different from normal hearing and takes time to learn. However, it allows many people to recognize warning signals, understand other sounds and enjoy conversations. Though they are complex, cochlear implants are not nearly as intricate and sensitive as the 16,000 delicate hair cells used for normal hearing.

“Ultimately, our goal is to improve overall communication,” said Debby Bengala, an ECU speech-language pathologist and clinical associate professor who assesses candidates’ speech and language skills. “I would say ninety-eight percent of (patients) have reported they feel more confident, more independent and just have a better overall sense of well-being.”

Kate Kennedy was diagnosed with hearing loss when she started school at age 5. It wasn’t a surprise. Her father was congenitally deaf, and her mother had profound hearing loss. In her extended family, more than a dozen people have mild to severe hearing loss.

Kennedy first wore the bulky hearing aids of the 1940s. As hearing aids improved, she wore newer, slimmer models. She became an expert lip-reader. She married, had children and worked 34 years in Pitt County government. Problems with ear infections forced her to retire in 1996 before she was ready, and surgery to close holes in her eardrums to alleviate the infections took what little bit of sound recognition she had left.

After deciding against a cochlear implant



Graduate student Shannon Swink checks Joshua McDaniel Spence’s cochlear implant.

several years ago, she revisited the idea. Relatives who had implants encouraged her. She received the implant in October, and Rutledge activated it in November.

“I wasn’t hearing anything with the hearing aid,” Kennedy said. “They said I was ninety-nine percent deaf.”

Her husband, Rayford, had often lamented that his wife could not hear the country music he enjoyed. Now, she was hearing again for the first time in decades.

“I was so happy,” Rayford Kennedy said. “Tears came to my eyes.” His wife was, too. “She was like a lit-up Christmas tree all week,” he said.

Not only was Kate Kennedy able to hear speech and music again, but she also heard a strange sound she didn’t recognize. She traced it to her husband.

“It was the first time she ever heard me snore,” he said with a smile.

Like much technology, implant components have gotten smaller and batteries more powerful. Future implants may use shorter electrode arrays for people whose hearing loss is limited to the higher frequencies. Other studies are exploring ways to make a cochlear implant convey the sounds of speech more clearly. Researchers also are looking at pairing a cochlear implant in one ear with either another cochlear implant or a hearing aid in the other ear.

With her new implant, Kennedy, an Elvis Presley and gospel music fan, has been enjoying music again for the first time in years. She’s looking forward to hearing what she’s missed.

“I’m going to have to go back, catch up with it,” she said. 🗣️

between 2 and 6 years old. Early implantation provides exposure to sounds that can be helpful during the critical period when children learn speech and language skills.

Project EAR began in 2005 with funding from the N.C. General Assembly through the leadership of Rep. Marian McLawhorn. Funding was not available in 2006, but Project EAR was funded again in 2007.

For more information about Project EAR, e-mail cochlear@ecu.edu or call 252-744-6128. Information is also available online at <http://www.ecu.edu/csd>.

Project EAR

A program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders called Project EAR allows health care professionals and parents of children with cochlear implants to share experiences, gain support and learn from each other as well as faculty and staff from ECU, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and Pitt County Schools.

“EAR” stands for Enrichment through Auditory-oral Resources.

Most children who receive implants are

Faculty Spotlight

Governor of grants

By Crystal Baity

For faculty seeking funding for research, the layers of paperwork and maze of administration may be daunting.

The process has been streamlined through the addition of Dr. David Cistola, associate dean for research in the College of Allied Health Sciences. A medical doctor and research scientist, he also is professor of clinical laboratory science in the college and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the Brody School of Medicine.

From idea to submission, the development of a grant proposal can take three to six months, sometimes a year or more if it involves several entities.

“The regulatory environment surrounding research grants is becoming more and more complex. We help faculty understand those regulations and stay on track,” Cistola said.

Since joining the college in July, he is concentrating on three key areas: pre- and post-award support, building collaborative projects, and continuing his own research into proteins and their roles in Alzheimer’s and diabetes.

Cistola and Wendy Smith, the college’s grants and contracts administrator, provide support for all externally-funded projects and liaison between project investigators and ECU central administration.

“Grants are awarded to universities, not simply to investigators. University officials take the ultimate responsibility and must sign off on all projects, no matter how big or how small,” Cistola said. “Our goal is to streamline the process and free up faculty members to do their work.”

The office manages grants already approved, provides accountability in budgeting and reporting and works closely with the Division of Health Sciences Grants and Contracts Office and the Division of Research and Graduate

Studies. Cistola said his office is part of the developing infrastructure in transforming ECU from a historically educational institution to a more research-oriented university. Being part of the change is one of the things that drew Cistola to ECU after 18 years in the department of biochemistry and molecular biophysics at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Becoming more involved in administration and working with Dean Stephen Thomas and Vice Chancellor of Research and Graduate Studies Deirdre Magean solidified his decision. “They are terrific leaders and they are really what brought me here.”

His first contact was Dr. Gregg Givens, chairman of the search committee and professor and chair of the communication sciences and disorders department. “He was the first one to get me excited about coming to ECU,” Cistola said.

Thomas said the college was ready for the creation of a research office because 60 percent of its 743 students are at master’s and doctoral levels.

“We wanted to bring in a strong research leader to expand and support the research enterprise to challenge our talented faculty and students,” Thomas said. “He has cast a wide net in terms of his openness to collaboration with departments across campus. He is looking at everyone in the college in every department and what they are doing and who faculty can work with to make their research a reality.”

Cistola is looking to strengthen existing projects and build new ones. “Some collaborations form on their own. Others require intervention and support,” he said.

For instance, he spotted an opportunity with the Brody School of Medicine Telemedicine Center in providing



Dr. David Cistola is the first associate dean for research in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

counseling services to Fort Bragg soldiers. “I recognized the opportunity for our rehabilitation studies faculty and students to play an important role. It’s just one of many possibilities,” he said.

Cistola’s motivation and passion for his work are traits shared by many faculty and staff in the college, and he has been well received across campus, Thomas said.

“He brings an excellent reputation as a researcher and a wealth of experience in research and external funding. He also brings an infectious energy level toward discovery and grantsmanship,” Givens said.

Other projects under Cistola’s scope include community service and health delivery, health care disparities and graduate educational training. 🗣️

Running for Life

By Crystal Baity

A researcher in the physical therapy department at East Carolina University has teamed up with a Furman University colleague to study running through the lifespan.

Dr. Blaise Williams from ECU and Dr. Ray Moss from Furman are studying runners aged 20 to 80 to see what changes occur in gait and

biomechanics as they age.

Long term, investigators will look at individuals in groups to observe patterns or changes in patterns with age. The study could lead to suggestions for modified training for runners to decrease the risk of injury, possibly by changing the types of races or total number of miles run.

Williams and Moss already know that many physiological and biomedical changes occur with age. Older people are at risk of injury and stress fracture because they typically get stiffer with age. Stiffness in running can create more shock in limbs on top of a usual decrease in bone mineral density that comes with age.

“There are lots of changes as you age,” Williams said. “But no one has really looked at the changes specific to running.”

The study is important because many people who started running 25 or 30 years ago are still running today. Moss is one of them. Now 59, he still runs each week, although fewer miles than before, and cycles.

“We have an aging society,” Moss said. “The population of baby boomers is coming to fruition. And they want to keep active.”

Moss, professor of health and exercise science at Furman, also is director of the Molnar Human Performance Laboratory. He said they have invested heavily in equipment bringing in a lot of new technology through their association with ECU. Williams has visited Furman several times in helping plan and set up the equipment.

“We have gone to great lengths to make sure our labs are the same and will

generate comparable results,” Moss said.

In the lab, runners will receive a comprehensive evaluation and be asked their history of injuries. Physical therapists will measure hips, knees and feet. Muscle strength and extensibility will be recorded. A 3-D analysis of leg movement patterns will be taken as participants run on a 75-foot path with small reflective markers placed on their legs and feet which feed information into a sophisticated computerized system. Forces in legs and joints will be measured. Investigators will videotape runners to see if the computerized data matches what is actually seen and recorded.

A detailed report will be generated including recommendations ranging from specific exercises for strengthening, balance and coordination to retraining running techniques.

About 15 to 20 runners from each decade, or a total of 120 to 150 runners, will participate between the two sites over an estimated two-year period. Data analysis will take about another year, Williams said.

New Balance, the athletic shoe company, has provided support by donating men’s and women’s running shoes to each lab. Researchers will share data from the study that could possibly help in shoe design or modification.

ECU has collected data on 31 runners so far bolstered by strong support from Greenville-area run clubs. Moss said his lab will start collection soon by working with run clubs in the Greenville, S.C., area where Furman is located.

Williams added there is a need for additional sponsorship for personnel and training equipment. ☞



At left, Valerie Banning of Ellington, Conn., a graduate assistant in the Human Movement Research Laboratory, demonstrates the steps involved in collecting data for the study. She runs 25 miles a week. At top, New Balance donated shoes for the study. Graduate assistants place markers on strategic areas of Banning’s body to measure torque and force.

40 Years of excellence



The Carol G. Belk Building was occupied by allied health sciences from 1972 until 2006.

By Crystal Baity
A pirate looks at 40.

The title of an old Jimmy Buffett song seems a fitting theme for the College of Allied Health Sciences this year.

Through four decades, the college continues to fulfill its mission of improving health care by graduating students in baccalaureate, master's, doctoral and continuing education programs, providing clinical services and conducting research.

"Anything we do reflects the mission of the college," said Dr. Stephen Thomas, the fourth dean in the history of the college. A longtime faculty member, Thomas moved

to Greenville in 1980 from the University of Arizona at Tucson to be an assistant professor in rehabilitation studies.

Thomas has steered the college through record enrollment, the addition of master's and doctoral programs, budget cuts, university leadership changes, the construction and move to a new facility and the recent re-designation from school to college.

The next few years will bring more changes including a merger of the community health and health services and information management departments, additional certificate programs and

collaboration with the new ECU School of Dentistry.

An ongoing challenge is finding clinical sites for students, something the college has dealt with since its start. Some students still make long drives to Elizabeth City or Wilmington for clinical training. In the past few years, legal requirements, liability insurance and background checks have made things more complex, Thomas said.

Enrollment growth adds to the challenge. The student body stands at 743, having increased 60 percent since fall 2001. "It's been meteoric. ECU as a university has grown and every school, college and department has participated in its growth," Thomas said.

The move in 2006 to the new Health Sciences Building has helped support the growth and brought all nine departments under one roof for the first time in 20 years. But it has its own challenges. Spread across four floors, faculty and staff see less of each other than they did in the Carol G. Belk Building. Thomas maintains camaraderie with biweekly administrative council meetings and special faculty and staff gatherings throughout the year.

On average, more than 85 percent of graduates stay in North Carolina for employment as the college remains the leading university provider of allied health professionals in the state. First-time student pass rates on credentialing exams remain in the 90 to 100 percent range.



"If they can't pass them, they can't work," Thomas said.

Yet the role that allied health plays in the health care industry remains, for the most part, unrecognized and underappreciated, Thomas said.

"The term 'allied health' is not branded. It's not recognizable like nursing or medicine. But if you look at the over 100 allied health professions, there are many disciplines with greater workforce shortages than other more well-known health care professions," he said.

Recognizing the need

Authorized in 1967 as the Life Sciences and Community Health Institute, the college was deemed important to a region lacking health care providers as ECU explored the establishment of a medical school and a study revealed a need for bachelor's degree programs in health-related sciences.

In less than a year, the name would change to more accurately reflect its mission as the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a private practice physician in Greenville, was



recruited by university Chancellor Leo W. Jenkins to become the first dean and guide its early development.

The school's first degree offerings were a bachelor of science in medical technology and a bachelor of arts in social welfare. By 1969, ECU received approval to plan and develop programs in physical and occupational therapy and medical record science.

Excluding Wilmington, Monroe recalled there was one occupational therapist working part-time in private practice, two physical therapists and maybe five or six medical record professionals in eastern North Carolina at the time. Finding existing clinical professionals to help train students was a challenge and concern of the state Board of Higher Education, Monroe said. But founding department chairs Peggy Wood in medical record science and George Hamilton in physical therapy, together with

Monroe, lobbied for their programs.

"We knew there were shortages of all those types across the state but especially in eastern North Carolina and western North Carolina," Monroe said.

Monroe began looking for a dean and recruited Dr. Ronald Thiele, a pediatrician who was superintendent of a state institution for mentally challenged children in Nashville, Tenn. Thiele started in January 1972 and served 19 years. Monroe was named vice chancellor for health affairs which included allied health sciences, nursing and the new medical school.

"I don't think any of us in the original group thought it would develop as fast

Left, Dr. Harold Jones was the third dean of the college. Above, Dr. Edwin Monroe, left, of Greenville was the first dean. Dr. Ronald Thiele was dean from 1972 until 1991 and now lives in Santa Rosa, California.

Yesterday our dreams began.

1967
N.C. Legislature authorizes ECU to establish Life Sciences and Community Health Institute.

1968
Rehabilitation counseling program and Department of Speech-Language and Auditory Pathology established in School of Education.

1968
Life Sciences and Community Health Institute renamed School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. First dean is Dr. Edwin W. Monroe. Physical therapy established.

1969
State authorizes funding for first bachelor degree programs in medical technology and social welfare. The Department of Medical Technology created.

1970
The Department of Medical Record Science created. Occupational therapy began. First class of physical therapy students enroll in fall 1970.

1971
Rehabilitation counseling program moves to allied health. In December, environmental health created.

1972
Dr. Ronald Thiele becomes school's second dean in January. First environmental health students enroll in spring. In June, Carol G. Belk Building opens. All allied health degree programs move to new facility. Speech-language and auditory pathology transfers from School of Education.

1973
Department of Community Health organizes and writes first grant to assist the new School of Medicine with recruitment and support of minority students.

1974
Environmental health graduates first class of 14 students.

1979
Biostatistics epidemiology research program begins.

1980
Rehabilitation studies adds master's degree in vocational education. Dr. Stephen Thomas joins faculty. Master's degree in environmental health added.

1983-1984
Social work program offers master's of science and moves out of allied health to

become separate school. School of Allied Health Professions' name changed to School of Allied Health Sciences.

1989
Substance abuse counseling degree program moves to rehabilitation studies. Biostatistics epidemiology research becomes Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology.

1991
Department of Medical Technology renamed Clinical Laboratory Science. In June, Dr. Ronald Thiele retires after serving more than 19 years as dean.

1992
In March, Dr. Harold P. Jones hired as school's third dean.

1993
Medical Record Administration renamed Health Information Management.

1994
Plans for physician assistant studies program begin.

40 Years of excellence



Dr. Karen Sullivan, clinical microbiologist and associate professor of clinical laboratory science, examines a student's agar plate.

and large as it is," said Monroe, who complimented the school on staying true to its mission.

When Thiele arrived, allied health programs were scattered across campus. Social welfare, later named social work, was a large program and speech language and hearing and rehabilitation counseling were in the School of Education.

In June 1972, the programs were brought together in the Belk Building. Also added were environmental health and community health, which were started with federal grants. The health sciences library under director Joanne Bell was there as well.

"We were it," Thiele said. "It was a very interesting and exciting time. The medical school was developing and the area health education center was young and new."

The mission was to populate the state with allied health professionals. In the '80s, about 60 percent of students enrolled in the allied health sciences were eastern North Carolinians, and most of them stayed to practice after graduation, a number that has risen steadily through the years. "We did what we were supposed to do and asked to do," Thiele said.

During his tenure, Thiele was instrumental in creating a biostatistics and

epidemiology program. Social work became a separate school and moved out of the Belk Building after gaining approval to start a master's program in 1983.

Pioneer (and pirate) spirit

With Belk located at the far edge of main campus at the intersection of Greenville and Charles boulevards and across from the stadium, a pioneer spirit was born.

With a separate budget, Thiele had "unusual independence. At least I didn't have to fight with other departments on campus. It worked well and to our advantage."

Thiele served for four chancellors during his tenure, participated in many accreditations, recessions and budget cuts. "The major thing was our programs matured," Thiele said. "The professions were moving up and expanding and we had to move up and expand with them."

The master's degree for physical therapy had just been approved when he retired in summer 1991.

"It was a fun time and all done with awfully good people," Thiele said. "I was the ringmaster of the circus. We dance around the middle to make sure people get on the horse properly."

He said everyone wanted the school to grow and to see it now "is rather phenomenal considering what was there when we started," Thiele said. "The people are the important thing. You can do anything with good people."

Thiele's successor, Dr. Harold Jones, joined the school as the third dean in 1992. Building on its solid foundation, he began work to raise awareness of the school on campus and in the community.

"We were an undervalued resource and part of my job was to make it more visible," said Jones, who is now dean of the School of Health Professions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

During his nine-year tenure at ECU, enrollment grew 70 percent, the number of programs increased, the first doctoral level program in communication sciences and disorders was approved, the first state university physician assistant department (the newest of the college's nine departments) began and the state's



first distance education-based programs in allied health were offered. One of the biggest accomplishments was seeing the 2000 bond referendum for higher education pass in North Carolina, enabling the construction of the health sciences building. The school, with



six mobile units, was featured in a UNC-TV story documenting the need for new university facilities leading up to the referendum.

"We became the biggest allied health provider in the state and the best known," Jones said. About one in six students entering ECU was a declared allied health major.

Navigating the future

"I think the thing I learned most at ECU and that carries on at UAB and many other areas of my life is to never limit yourself by dreaming too small," Jones said. "The second thing is you can never underestimate the importance of having a leadership team that is committed to the institution and committed to working with each other in a collaborative way. We accomplished all we accomplished because we were willing to dream big and people were willing to work together. With the right mix of dreams and people, you can do really great things."

The future of allied health sciences is as promising as ever.

"I'm a promoter and believer," said



Thiele. "They will play an important role in the future of health care. There aren't enough doctors to take care of everybody, and not everybody needs a doctor."

Jones also sees allied health professionals taking a more significant role in health care delivery.

"With that, there will be more recognition of what allied health professionals do," Jones said. "We will rely on them more and more to do more complex things and provide care to an increasingly sicker population."

Under Thomas' leadership, the college, its dedicated faculty and staff continue to produce allied health professionals for North Carolina's workforce and remain positive in the midst of constant change and growth.

"There's no need for us to get off mission. The college has continued to be successful because we know our mission and what we need to do to achieve it," Thomas said. ☺

Left, Dr. Stephen Thomas is dean. Above, research is growing in the college. The Health Sciences Building is on west campus.

Milestones

1995
Occupational therapy adds post-professional master's degree program. Plans begin for doctorate in rehabilitation studies. Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology renamed biostatistics. Department of Community Health develops health care management program within the School of Business.

1996
Speech-language and auditory pathology renamed Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. State's first doctorate in CSDI established. Physical Therapy moves to master's level.

1997
First class of physician assistant studies students start. Duke University collaborates with ECU creating a program in which physician assistant students earn a master's degree from Duke while taking courses for a bachelor's in physician assistant studies from ECU.

1998
Distance education master's degree begins in CSDI.

1999
CSDI awards first doctoral degree. CSDI receives patent for SpeechEasy stuttering device. Environmental health moves to the School of Industry and Technology. First physician assistant class graduates.

2000
North Carolina voters pass \$3.1 billion bond referendum for UNC system and community colleges. Officials announce new allied health sciences facility will be built on west campus.

2001
In April, Dr. Harold P. Jones leaves ECU. Dr. Stephen W. Thomas named interim dean.

2002
Occupational therapy moves from bachelor's to master's degree level. Health services management bachelor's degree program established. Department of Health Information Management renamed Health Services and Information Management. The SpeechEasy device, developed by CSDI researchers Drs. Joseph Kalinowski, Michael Rastatter and Andrew Stuart, is featured in national and international media.

2003
Dr. Stephen W. Thomas named fourth dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences. Health information management

offered through a distance education format, tripling its enrollment from the previous year. The new master's program in physician assistant studies accepted its first class of on-campus and distance education students. Permission to establish the doctorate in rehabilitation counseling and administration approved. Doctorate in clinical audiology established. A school-funded diversity task force helped obtain a nearly \$1 million federally funded, three-year continuation Health Careers Opportunity Program grant. ABC News' "Good Morning America" wins Emmy for story on SpeechEasy device.

2004
Groundbreaking held for the new building to house the School of Allied Health Sciences, School of Nursing and Laupus Library.

2006
Moved to Health Sciences Building.

2007
Renamed College of Allied Health Sciences.

Thinkers, doers and agents of change.

In October, alumni, friends, faculty and staff gathered in the College of Allied Health Sciences for a 40th anniversary celebration in conjunction with ECU's homecoming and centennial. Forty-one top alumni were recognized from the college's degree-granting programs. On the following pages, we are pleased to spotlight an outstanding graduate from each of the departments.

Stories by Crystal Baity and Doug Boyd



Deborah Albritton

Community health connector

Thinker, doer and agent of change. Dr. Don Ensley uses these attributes to describe his former community health student, Deborah Albritton. "As her professor and mentor, I immediately became aware of her commitment to assisting others," he said.

Albritton is director of Columbus County Healthy Carolinians based at Columbus Regional Healthcare System in Whiteville. She received her bachelor's of science in school and community health administration and master's of public administration with a concentration in health administration from ECU.

"She is full of energy and is driven by her passion to see positive results in whatever she engages in," said Ensley, professor and chair of the community health department and assistant vice chancellor for community engagement at ECU.

Albritton has more than 20 years experience engaging community partners and capacity-building. In fact, capacity building is one of the "three C's" that she is known for in her field. The others are communication and connections, Albritton said.

"I say communication is key. Connecting resources is so important, and finally, I love capacity building," she said. "I credit much of my success to getting all the people around the table on the same page. I also like to stay focused."

She served four years on the Governor's Task Force for Healthy Carolinians and continues to serve as a liaison. She serves on the statewide Physical Activity and Nutrition steering committee. She serves on several county and regional committees working with area schools and hospitals.

"Her challenges in the health care arena, even today, are enhanced by her willingness to take chances and think outside of the box," Ensley said.

Previously, Albritton was a community development specialist with the Eastern North Carolina Poverty Committee, where she directed and implemented a workforce preparedness program in partnership with eight area social services departments and three community colleges.

A published researcher, she has experience consulting with hospitals, community and rural health centers on marketing, community development and physician recruitment and retention. Albritton recently facilitated "Discover

Columbus: Program for the Rural Carolinas," where she mobilized county teams that addressed leadership development, heritage and eco-tourism and agribusiness initiatives.

Ensley noted her commitment to her family and her extended family, the community.

"She is the result of what I have attempted to share with students for 30 years. That is 'to see, to be, to change,'" Ensley said. "Making a difference is her life blood. It keeps her functioning and alive each day."

Albritton credits her close Italian family for always supporting her endeavors. She is the daughter of Quill and Joyce Albritton of Ayden and has a brother, Jeff Albritton, a registered pharmacist and consultant from Emerald Isle. She and her husband, Steve Yost, marketing manager of North Carolina Southeast, have three cats, Rocky, Fred and Smokey. 🐾

Surgery's playmaker

Anthony Bartholomew could be considered the point guard of the Brody School of Medicine Department of Surgery team.

As administrator for surgery, Bartholomew is "a superb leader in the department and in the medical school," said Dr. Michael Rotondo, professor and chair of surgery.

Bartholomew is in charge of all financials, clinical operations, faculty recruitment and business growth. This enables faculty physicians to care for patients and carry out their research and education mission. There is more competition today for consumers' health care dollars than before and surgery is no exception, Bartholomew said.

"In very short order, Anthony has been able to produce the financial modeling for a modern-day department and lead us in business development," Rotondo said. "His performance has been so outstanding that he has been recognized as a leader among department administrators."

Bartholomew's business model has



Anthony Bartholomew

been emulated by other departments and has helped ECU Physicians' overall bottom line, Rotondo said. He also has been instrumental in the establishment of the new department of cardiovascular sciences. "If something really important has been going on, Anthony's been involved," Rotondo said.

A Louisburg native, Bartholomew graduated in 1992 with a bachelor's in health information management from the College of Allied Health Sciences. As an Army ROTC student, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant after graduation. He was sent to Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to be administrator of pediatrics.

"My degree prepared me for that," he said. At the time, the Department of Defense was transitioning to more of a private health care model, and he was able to be involved from the ground up. While there, he also earned a master's in health services management degree from Webster University.

He completed military service in 1997 and headed back to eastern North Carolina, where he became director of medical records at Brody School of Medicine on the heels of the creation of the electronic medical record to replace paper versions. He oversaw the transition project for the medical school. After the creation of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, he was named privacy officer. While working full-time, he also completed a master's of business administration degree from ECU in 2004. He joined surgery in 2005.

Bartholomew said a degree in health information management provides a solid foundation for many health care careers. "It is such a broad overview of health care," he said. "It is a very challenging and needed profession overall."

On a personal level, Bartholomew's integrity is stellar, Rotondo said. "You will not find a more honest and forthright person. He understands people and has a quiet leadership style that fits in well here." 🐾

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Katina Eley

Pioneering physician assistant

Katina Eley was one of 20 students in the inaugural class of the physician assistant studies program at ECU.

"We were paving the way. We were pioneers," Eley said, thinking back to summer 1997 in a mobile classroom behind the Carol Belk Building, where the program was first located.

She graduated with honors from Elizabeth City State University with a bachelor's in biology and pre-med, and was accepted to the Summer Program for Future Doctors in ECU's Brody School of Medicine. While there, she heard about a new physician assistant's program. With an applicant pool in the hundreds, she was one of 75 invited to interview and eventually selected.

"It was a rigorous program," she said. "God got me through it."

Physician assistant students took classes with students in physical therapy, occupational therapy and medicine. Eley did three clinical rotations in her hometown of Ahoskie, one that led to permanent employment at Roanoke Chowan Women's

Center with Dr. Claudia Weaver Richardson after graduation in 1999.

Julie Daniel-Yount, a former classmate, said Eley is a model for the mission of ECU's program which helps provide a workforce in rural, underserved areas.

Eley is nationally certified and the only obstetrics and gynecology physician assistant in town, where there is only one nurse-midwife and Richardson is the only female obstetrician and gynecologist.

In conjunction with a supervising doctor, physician assistants evaluate, diagnose and treat, assist surgery and provide counseling.

The Ahoskie office provides the same excellent clinical instruction for ECU students that led Eley back home.

"She has shown commitment to our program because she and Dr. Richardson have served as preceptors and have taught for many years. They get phenomenal reviews by students," said Daniel-Yount, clinical assistant professor and coordinator of clinical education in the ECU department of physician assistant studies. "Those years of service have not gone unnoticed."

Daniel-Yount describes Eley as "a funny, caring, spiritual and compassionate person." Eley said her love of people and interest in medicine at an early age fit with becoming a physician assistant. Her grandmother was a nurse's aide and her aunt was a registered nurse for more than 25 years, providing a foundation for a health care profession.

Yet, less than a year after graduation, Eley survived an accident that threatened to end her career.

She was riding with a friend late at night, heading home from Maryland, when they wrecked in Virginia. Her friend died in the accident. Eley, who was airlifted to a nearby hospital, suffered multiple injuries, a fractured jaw and short term memory loss. She feared she wouldn't be able to work again.

But Eley made a full recovery and, fortunately for many patients in north-eastern North Carolina, her pioneer spirit prevailed. ☺

(Editor's note: At press time, Eley reported she no longer works at Roanoke Chowan Women's Center.)

Exceptional counselor, advocate

Shel Downes taught hundreds of graduate students, but none more captivating than Carol Grant Potter.

Downes, professor emeritus in the rehabilitation studies program, remembers Potter as someone "always on top of the world. Upbeat, pleasant, happy. When someone is like that, it rubs off on everybody else. She makes you feel better right away."

Potter's insight and ability to empathize with the problems of others make her an exceptional counselor, Downes said.

Sometimes people tell Potter they forget she has a disability. But she reminds them "it's a part of who Carol is and it's good."

Potter entered ECU intent on working in the public sector. "ECU is known for preparing people to work in public rehabilitation," she said. "It is a commitment they continue to maintain."

After graduating with a master's in rehabilitation counseling in 1977, she worked four years as a rehabilitation counselor in Goldsboro, becoming increasingly frustrated with barriers she saw clients face in daily life.

Her appointment at age 26 to a national architectural compliance board tasked with developing the first minimum accessibility standards for federal buildings led her to explore more possibilities for making an impact.

She entered the third doctoral class in the rehabilitation program at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. There, she met her husband, Raymond "Sam" Potter. She also helped start a private, non-profit center for independent living, a non-residential resource and advocacy center serving four counties. She found it difficult to direct the center and work on her dissertation at the same time.

Soon a job opportunity opened with Baylor University in Houston, working for a research and training center on independent living. The job included finishing her dissertation. After earning her doctorate in 1990, she taught at the



Carol Grant Potter

University of Georgia. In 1997, she moved back to North Carolina to be closer to family and begin work with the N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities and now as assistant director for community services in the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Her office is responsible for managing and providing technical assistance and support to staff who administer three programs: N.C. Independent Living Rehabilitation Program, N.C. Assistive Technology Program, and Access North Carolina.

The ILRP is unique in the country. Fifteen offices across the state have professional counselors, support staff, rehabilitation engineers who design customized home and vehicle modifications, recreational therapists and a personal assistance program for help with daily life. The ATP has 10 full-service centers statewide offering professional assessments, demonstration, loan and consultation about assistive technology devices and equipment for people with disabilities of all ages. The Access North

Carolina Travel Guide, the nation's first guidebook for travelers with disabilities, provides information on the accessibility of the state's vacation destinations.

Potter, 54, grew up during a time of inaccessibility for people with disabilities. No mandatory education, no curb cuts, no building rules, no reserved parking.

"In the fifties and sixties, the expectation was that the person with the disability had to make the change and adapt to society, and that's not the philosophy of the disability rights movement," Potter said. Federal accessibility laws and building requirements enacted in the late '70s through the early '90s created change and helped change mindsets, she said.

Potter credits many people who have helped her along the way, from her elementary school principal in Raleigh to the president of Meredith College, where she earned her bachelor's degree. Both made their campuses accessible so she could learn and achieve. "Had that not occurred, it would have changed my life a lot," she said. ☺

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Randy Strickland

Head of the class

"Chief academic officer" is how Dr. Randy Strickland describes his role at 1,700-student Spalding University in Louisville, Ky.

Strickland is senior vice president of academic affairs at Spalding, a university with multiple graduate programs, including two doctoral programs. He oversees academic units, compliance and the university master plan. Even with those responsibilities, some days can still find him at the head of a class.

"I believe it's important to stay close to our discipline even when you move into an administrative role such as mine," he said.

Strickland graduated from ECU in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy. He earned a master's degree and doctorate in adult education from North Carolina State University. He has worked as an occupational therapist and in academics, including a stint on the O.T. faculty at ECU. He's been at Spalding for 13 years.

"I've chosen to be in academic settings because I feel I've been able to contribute

to the advancement of others, and I think that's very rewarding," Strickland said.

In addition, Strickland has served as vice president of the American Occupational Therapy Association, chairman of the Kentucky Occupational Therapy Board, chairman of the Commission on Practice of the AOTA and president of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

A focus of his work and research has been rules and standards for credentialing in the occupational therapy profession. Another research and practice interest is gerontology.

"He's made ECU proud ... and had great impact on the profession," said Dr. Anne Dickerson, a professor of occupational therapy at ECU and the person who nominated Strickland as outstanding alumnus. "He's one of our top alumni in terms of how far he has gone."

When he was at ECU, Strickland said, a student's life consisted largely of school and maybe a part-time job. Now, students typically work 30 to 50 hours a week, help care for family members, or are older and have their own families. The bright side is that people no longer see the window between ages 18 and 22 as the only opportunity they'll have to get a college degree, Strickland said.

"Today, students have so much responsibility in addition to their role as students," Strickland said. "I think it's a positive change because we're reaching out to a very diverse population."

Thinking back to his college days, Strickland remembered being part of something new at ECU: health sciences.

"That was an exciting time, and we felt as graduates we were going out providing services that hadn't been provided before," Strickland said.

While he and his wife own property in the coastal town of Southport and plan to retire there one day, Strickland sees himself teaching and leading for many more years.

"I'm not stopping by any means yet," he said. ☺

Service-oriented therapist

Eileen Rodri Watkins knew in high school that she would be a physical therapist, influenced by her father, a former head football and track coach, and her mother, a nurse.

"I believe I got the bug when I was just 6 years old when I used to go and help my dad with a former coach who had Lou Gehrig's Disease. Dad was always helping someone to heal. My mother is a nurse and her wisdom and leadership helped mold my interest," Watkins said of her parents, Joe and JoAnne Rodri.

Watkins is owner and president of Comprehensive Rehab of Wilson, a physical therapy rehabilitation company with 32 employees, two outpatient clinics and contracts with home health, nursing homes, a charter school, hospital and long term care facility for the mentally ill.

She has been a guest lecturer in ECU's physical therapy department for many years and provides clinical training sites for students.

Watkins works with patients one or two days each week while managing her business. One big challenge is maintaining a sound financial base despite third-party insurance payers, federal program reimbursements, Medicare caps, managed care in state nursing facilities and home health settings. Preparing for change in the health care system is almost constant.

She credits her team of supervisors and clinicians for their dedication in taking care of each other as well as patients. They are like family.

"The number one client we must take care of is the patient," Watkins said. "We are the gatekeepers to prevention, education and healing of the client."

Watkins earned two degrees at ECU, her bachelor's of science in physical therapy in 1981 and a master's of business administration in 1991. She said she received a strong foundation of coursework and clinical education.

"Our instructors were there to let us learn and ask questions," she said.

Diagnosed with cervical cancer at age 29, Watkins said surviving the experience leads



Eileen Rodri Watkins

her to give back to her community. "I give so little and receive so much more in return. I am blessed," said Watkins, now 48.

Louise Yurko, a retired physical therapist in Newport, said Watkins is one of the most service-oriented therapists she has ever met. "She is highly respected at the state and national level. She has high ethical standards and other young physical therapists look up to her," Yurko said.

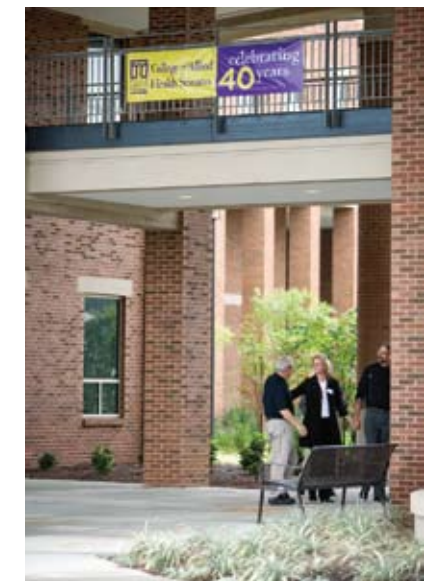
Watkins was a two-term president of the North Carolina Physical Therapy Association and remains active as a delegate, vice chair of the coastal district and chair of the scholarship and loan committee.

She is active in her church, St. Therese, having served on parish council. She volunteers with the American Red Cross and is president of the Wilson Downtown Development Association. She is a member and district representative of Al-anon. She is past president of the Wilson Crisis Center and Wilson Hospital Auxiliary. Watkins is engaged and planning to marry Dennis Carter this year. She has three dogs, Chopper, Peetie and Squirt.

Watkins said she will retire when she can't tell a good joke or no longer enjoys owning a business. It would leave more time for kayaking and other water sports,

jogging, traveling, volunteering, painting and crafts. But for now, her patients come before those pursuits.

"I have had patients to tell me that I had saved their life, and you can not place a price tag on that type of comment," Watkins said. "I have had a patient to write a poem about helping her with multiple sclerosis. It has been a wonderful life for me." ☺



Alumni, friends and family returned for the 40th anniversary.

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Brenda Ryals

Sound leader

Turning silence into sound is the goal of one of the College of Allied Health Sciences' top alumni.

Dr. Brenda Ryals is looking at how canaries can regrow hair cells inside their ears and what that means for their hearing. "We know birds can regrow hair cells," Ryals said. "With people, we know with age or noise or certain toxic drugs, we lose these hair cells, and they don't grow back."

A noted audiologist who's published papers and spoken around the world, Ryals is director of the Auditory Research Lab at James Madison University in Virginia. She is also a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders there and an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland.

Working with a colleague at UM, Ryals is studying not only the fact that canaries can regrow these cells, but also whether they can hear, understand and respond to complex songs after regrowing the hair cells. Understanding how canaries' regrow these cells as well as how these cells reconnect to the brain so that hearing returns may one day help treat severe

hearing loss in humans.

In a recent conversation, Ryals recalled professors at ECU who sparked her interest in auditory research. One of those was Dr. Hal Daniel, a former professor of audiology and anatomy who now teaches in the biology department. He said Ryals was a top student who excelled at research.

"The job of a professor is to get students to be better than they are," Daniel said. "She certainly did that."

After graduating from ECU in 1971 and receiving a master's degree from the University of Tennessee in 1973, Ryals worked in private practice. She returned to school later that decade, earning a doctorate at the University of Virginia. She's been a researcher and professor since.

Ryals is also editor of Ear and Hearing, the journal of the American Auditory Society, and a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. In 1990, ECU recognized her as an outstanding alumna.

Her success comes as no surprise to another former professor, Dr. Garrett Hume. "She was a go-getter," said Hume, now professor emeritus. "She set her goals high, and I knew she would achieve them."

When Ryals considers the giant steps that have been taken to improve hearing tests and interventions for hearing loss in the 40 years since she was a student at ECU, she has bright predictions for her audiology students.

"I can only image the wonderful things they'll be seeing in the next forty years," she said. 🌟

Leader of the Labs

The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences didn't have to go far to find an outstanding alumnus.

Approximately 500 yards away, George Williams has been leading the laboratories at Pitt County Memorial Hospital for 30 years.

Williams came to East Carolina University from Asheville and graduated from the School of Allied Health Sciences

in 1973. He was part of the first full four-year class to graduate from the young school. He went right to work at PCMH and took the lead of the labs in 1977.

"My first big project was to move that lab from the old hospital to the new hospital," he said recently in his office that overlooks the newest PCMH building project: a new cardiovascular bed tower.

That structure symbolizes the growth PCMH has seen during Williams' career. When he started there, he said, he knew every employee's face and every doctor's name and face. That's not the case now, with a medical staff of 650 and a hospital payroll of more than 5,200.

Though Williams hasn't worked at the bench in many years, he has fond memories of hands-on laboratory work and the personal reward of playing a role in patient care.

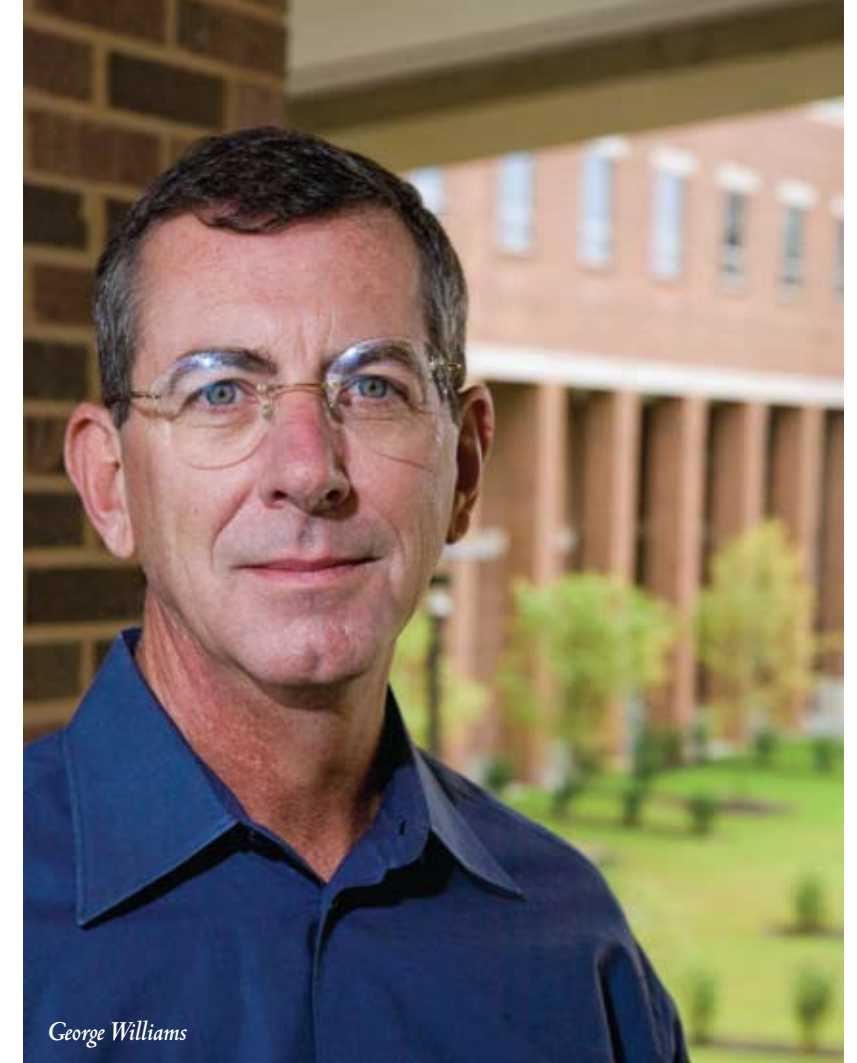
"There were times when I would work from seven in the morning till five, and everyone went home, and I was working in the lab till eleven," Williams said. Then he would be on call all night and back at work at 7 a.m. the following day.

John Stallings, the longtime pharmacy administrator and now interim vice president at PCMH, has known Williams since they began working there in the 1970s. The two have golfed and fished together, and Stallings talked up Williams' shrimp cookouts.

"I've enjoyed knowing him all these years," Stallings said. "As we like to say, we've helped train a lot of executives."

While at PCMH, Williams has chaired or co-chaired three United Way campaigns. He has also worked as an ECU adjunct clinical laboratory faculty member. However, he said, automation has led to labs being able to do more with less. Salaries haven't kept pace with other health care fields, so talented lab workers move on to pharmaceutical sales, physician assistant school and other more lucrative careers.

As for himself, Williams isn't looking to slow down. "My health is good, and I enjoy what I do, so I'll be here a while longer," he said. 🌟



George Williams

Forty-one distinguished alumni were recognized as part of the College of Allied Health Sciences' 40th anniversary and the university's centennial celebration in October.

Clinical laboratory science honored Madge Chamness, Stas and Brenda Humienny, Mike Roberts and George Williams. Community health honored Deborah Albritton, Denise Graham Brewster, Pansie Hart Flood, Randy Michael Horton and Kathy Arnold Taft. Communication sciences and disorders named David Blalock, Barbara Bremer, Susan Hiss Butler, Pat Chase, Martha Dixon, Rhonda Joyner, Brenda Ryals, Johnnie Sexton and Marianna Walker. Health services and information management recognized Anthony Bartholomew, Jean Foster, Don Hardwick and Cassina Hunt. Occupational therapy named Wanda Bennett, Tony Bright, Sharon Elliot and Randy Strickland. Physician assistant studies honored Marcy Cole and Katina Eley. Physical therapy recognized Greg Bashor, C. David Edwards, Charlotte Hanes, Pat Hodson, Kathy DeMoli Shirley and Eileen Rodri Watkins. Rehabilitation studies honored Jerome Dirkers, Cheryl Gentile, James Holvetti, Jane Meads, Carol Potter and Sharon Shallow.



excellence



By Crystal Baity
Pat Frede has a new home port. With nearly 15 years in the U.S. Navy, Frede, quartermaster chief and reservist, is now serving East Carolina University. Frede is director of development and alumni relations for the College of Allied Health Sciences in the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, becoming the first dedicated solely to the college about one year ago. Previously, one person served as chief fundraiser for allied health sciences and the College of Nursing.

Charting a new course

Dean Stephen Thomas said Frede’s ability to concentrate on one college and build personal and professional relationships with faculty, staff and alumni is already making a difference. A recent alumni telethon raised a record amount of money. Frede also organized the 40th anniversary celebration held in October. “She has come up with some very good ideas,” Thomas said. Her plans include the establishment at least one endowed professorship in the college and endowed scholarships for each department. “Some of our departments do not have any scholarships available for our students, and I hope that by working together with alumni and friends that will change,” Frede said. “ECU was built on the promise of opportunity, and it’s my job to uphold that promise by making people aware of the many opportunities for them to be a part of the progress at the college.” A Scranton, Pa., native, Frede graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and criminal justice administration. She earned a master’s of business administration from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wis. She

worked in the financial field for almost 10 years, first as director of financial affairs for the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce and later as assistant branch manager for United Penn Bank. After several bank mergers and downsizings, Frede decided to do something completely different and at age 30 joined the Navy to see the world. Frede’s ship supplied more than 50 ships with bombs, ammunition, fuel and other goods during Desert Storm and Desert Shield. She saw England, Italy, Sicily, Spain, Greece, Israel and was in France for the 50th anniversary of D-Day. She also met her husband, Pete, who retired from the Navy in 1996. In 1997, Frede left active duty but remained with the Navy Reserve and returned to a career in financial management. While a reservist, she has been to Bahrain, Vieques Island, Netherlands and may be headed to Africa this year. She said the Navy’s core values of honor, courage and commitment help guide her each day in “identifying our greatest needs, communicating our passion and serving as a trusted steward of our donors’ generosity.” ☺

Rural health needs Mills symposium examines access and funding



Dr. Stephen Thomas, dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences, welcomes 2007 symposium participants who were challenged to think of health disparities as a competitiveness issue in the United States.

By Crystal Baity
The unique needs of rural residents and their health was the main topic of the 4th annual Jean Mills Health Symposium held Feb. 15-16 in Greenville. Each year the symposium features recognized experts who provide health and wellness related services to eastern North Carolinians. The symposium brings attention and seeks solutions to critical health care

issues facing minority populations. Keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas C. Ricketts, professor of health policy and administration and social medicine and director of the health policy analysis unit in the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research has focused on policy making for the health care workforce and access to care

for rural and underserved populations. “Health disparities are inherently linked to issues of social, environmental and occupational justice,” said Dr. Beth Velde, assistant dean and professor in the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences. “Without inter-professional approaches to research and service and the collaboration with communities, health disparities cannot be addressed successfully.” The Feb. 16 community outreach program featured free demonstrations, screenings and education for about 200 participants. The event was hosted by the College of Allied Health Sciences in collaboration with the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation and Eastern Area Health Education Center. The Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation gave a generous grant of \$10,000. Jean Elaine Mills earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1977 and a master’s in public administration with a concentration in community health from ECU in 1984. She died from breast cancer in 2000. Amos T. Mills III, Jean’s brother, created the symposium to keep her spirit of discovery and community outreach alive. ☺

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Martha (Betty) Smith, PhD, CCC-SLP
Clinical Professor and Director of Clinical Operations
Andrew Stuart, PhD
Professor
Marianna Walker, PhD, CCC-SLP
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Technologist for Distance Learning
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Associate Professor
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Associate Professor
Robert Campbell, EdD
Assistant Professor

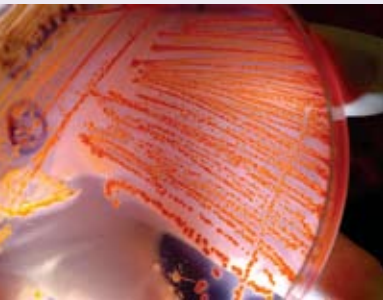
Faculty and Staff

Scholarships

Megan Bowker, Holly Honeycutt and Renee Wilson received the Barbara Bremer Award, given annually to graduate students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders for clinical work that makes a recognizable difference in the life of a client. Bremer is an alumna and long-standing supporter of the department. She is in private practice. Physician assistant studies student

Elizabeth Kearney-Sawyer received one of four North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants’ Endowment Scholarships. The NCAPA awards the \$2,000 scholarships each year to a rising second-year student in each of the state’s four physician assistant programs. The scholarship is based on academic achievement, service and need.

Jayne Curry-Tucker and Katherine Farnham each received a 2007 Foundation of Research and Education merit



scholarship from the American Health Information Management Association. Curry-Tucker also received the Peggy H. Wood Scholarship. Wood began the ECU Health Information Management program and chaired it for 26 years. During her tenure, Wood trained most of the health information management professionals in eastern North Carolina.

Lenita J. Hammonds, physician assistant studies, received a \$500 scholarship from the N.C. Coalition of Rural Health Practitioners, a non-profit organization based in south-central North Carolina. Preference is given to students from Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond or Scotland counties dedicated to providing health care in a rural part of the state.

Addie Chlebnikow, physical therapy, received the Catherine Virginia McCulley Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was established by the parents of McCulley, who graduated magna cum laude in physical therapy in 1989 and received a master’s in exercise physiology in 1992. She was killed in an auto accident in 1993. The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded annually to a student who exemplifies McCulley’s outstanding academic achievement, caring attitude and professional commitment.

Valerie Banning and Katherine Stephenson received the George Hamilton Scholarship. Hamilton served as chairman of the physical therapy department from 1969 until 1988. He retired in 1995. Each scholarship is \$500 and assists two deserving third-year physical therapy students enrolled full-time with grade point averages of 3.5 or more.

Amanda Jernigan received the Lillian Pearl Eason Physical Therapy Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a second-year student interested in the practice of geriatric physical therapy.

Tara Marshall received the Maydell Turner Edwards Award Physical Therapy Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a second-year student interested in the practice of geriatric physical therapy.

Sara Stanley received the Dale A. Huggins Scholarship. The \$1,250 award goes annually to a physical therapy student who plans to practice in eastern North Carolina upon graduation and who demonstrates financial need.

Lynnette Weaver, rehabilitation studies, received the 2007 Beth Lambeth Memorial Scholarship. It is awarded annually on the basis of exemplary leadership, scholarship and character in memory of Lambeth, who was a graduate student in rehabilitation counseling at ECU.

News Briefs

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders doctoral program is ranked ninth in a national study of faculty scholarly productivity.

The 2007 index, produced by Academic Analytics, compiles overall institutional rankings for faculty productivity for 375 universities that offer doctoral degrees. Also the graduate programs in the department recently were reaccredited by the Council for Academic Accreditation for the maximum eight-year period.

Dr. Anne Dickerson, professor of occupational therapy, was named one of 10 Centennial Women of Distinction in 2007 by the ECU Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Women and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

Dr. Robert Kulesher, director of the health services management program, was recently appointed to the Undergraduate Program Committee of the Association in University Programs in Health Administration. His term runs through June 2010.

Dr. Elizabeth Layman, chair of the Department of Health Services and Information Management, was recently appointed to the Scholars Council, a partner of the University of North Carolina Tomorrow Commission.

Carolyn Pugh, clinical assistant



Susie Harris, sitting right, ECU instructor of health services and information management and rehabilitation counseling doctoral student, shared research on how to improve services to people with disabilities. She worked with the research, planning and program evaluation department in the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Pictured standing left to right is Leigh Atherton, Jennifer Mitchell, Steven Sligar, Linda Harrington, Sarah Li, Barbara Galloway and Edna Davis. Sitting left to right is Phil Protz, Paula Jones, Beth Coberly and Harris.

professor and didactic education coordinator for physician assistant studies, was appointed by Gov. Mike Easley to an advisory board of the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services to establish a controlled substances reporting system.

Dr. Mark Stebnicki, professor of rehabilitation studies, has been appointed to the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification, and the Council on

Rehabilitation Education, which accredits all graduate-level rehabilitation counselor training programs.

Dr. Stephen Thomas, dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences, is vice-chair of the Council for Allied Health in North Carolina. Thomas will become council chair in 2009.

Dr. Xiaoming Zeng, assistant professor of health services and information management, has been named an ECU Scholar Teacher for 2007-2008

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Judy Harrison
Administrative Support Associate





Megan Carpenter Hsu (BS health services management '06) married Warren Hsu on June 2. The family lives in Columbus, Ohio, where Warren Hsu is completing family medicine residency. Lucas is 3.

1973

Michele Hill Demby (BS medical technology) of Waxhaw is a group practice administrator and received a master's in health administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2000.

1975

Patricia Ann Chase (BS communication sciences and disorders, MS '76 audiology) of Johnson City, Tenn., received the East Tennessee State University Foundation Teaching Award in the College of Public and Allied Health, where she is an associate professor of communicative disorders and audiologist in the ETSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

1977

Don Woodard (BS occupational therapy) is a certified hand therapist at Lewis-Gale Medical Center in Salem, Va. He and wife, Denise, have four sons.

1980

Hubert Donald "Don" Vickers Jr. (BS school and community health education) of Greenville is a strategic territory manager with Simmons Bedding Company. He and wife, Leigh Wade Vickers, have two daughters.

1982

Ulla-Britta Schroeder Dittmar (BS medical technology) of Ayden is a biotechnology instructor at Pitt Community College.

1985

Marie Vest Simmons (BS speech language pathology) of Raleigh is a preschool speech therapist in the Johnston County Schools. She and husband, Mark Simmons ('84), have three children.

Suzanne Lane Nix (BS school and community health education, MA '88 community health education) is a provider relations specialist at Eastpointe in Kinston. She has two daughters.

1987

Bernice Gorham Cherry (BS school and community health education) of Greenville published "The Onion You Are Eating is Someone Else's Waterlilly" in 2004. She is co-owner of ZCS Inc., providing in-home care to people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Douglas Lee Dalton (MS rehabilitation counseling) of Fayetteville retired as a state vocational rehabilitation counselor. He is a lay speaker for the United Methodist Church.

Charlie Ingle (BS biology; BS '87 physical therapy) of Grifton manages a NovaCare clinic in Kinston and is married with two children.

1988

Denise G. Brewster (BS school and community health education, MED '95) is a consultant. She and her husband, Dennis, live on their 36-foot sailboat traveling between Chesapeake Bay and Key West.

Geneva White Britt (MS audiology, AuD '04) of Raleigh is a consultant and president of the Raleigh Sertoma Club.

1989

Lee Anthony White (MS communication sciences and disorders) of Woodbridge, Va., is a speech pathologist in the Prince William County Public Schools.

1992

Donna West Clark (speech language and auditory pathology) of Jacksonville, Fla., is a stay-at-home mom with four children and plans to adopt a daughter from China this year.

Sherry Nicholson King (BS health information management) is an educator at WakeMed in Raleigh. She is married to Tony King ('92) and they have two children.

1993

Lisa Roberts Seffrin (BS school and community health education) of Piedmont, S.C., and her husband, Mike ('91), celebrated the birth of daughter Mili Claire in March 2007. Mili has three brothers.

1994

Penny Nease Johnson (BS health information management) of Roanoke, Va., is a preschool teacher and has two daughters.

Erica Suzanne Kaplon (BS physical therapy) is a staff therapist in Marietta, Ga.

1996

Kerry Lynch Martinez (BS, MS '98 communication sciences and disorders) of Glen Allen, Va., recently married and is a school speech language pathologist.

Holly Kearney Roberson (BS health information management) is director of health information management at Florida Hospital, Altamonte and Apopka.

Kathleen Bobzien Scott (BS health information management) is director of health information management for CJW Medical Center Johnston-Willis Campus in Richmond, Va.

1997

John Alexander Staley (BS environmental health) of Durham is completing his doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

1998

Cherie L. Webber (BS clinical laboratory science) of Summerfield is a regional quality assurance manager with LabCorp.

2000

Sherri Plunkett Bosely (BS communication sciences and disorders) of Raleigh works as a speech language pathologist in the public schools and is married with a daughter.

Stacey Pylkas Klein (physician assistant studies) works for a pediatric neurosurgeon in Atlanta. She was married June 30.

Robert "Bob" Mayer (BS occupational therapy) of New York, N.Y., is director of a health care consulting company.

2001

Leslie Brewer Poole (communication sciences and disorders) is a speech language pathologist at Mary Black Memorial Hospital in Spartanburg, S.C.

Amanda JoAnne Price (rehabilitation counseling and vocational evaluation) is a counselor at Williamston Primary School in Williamston.

Aerian Heath Tatum (BS health information management) is a project supervisor for Quadramed Corp. She was married in August 2003.

2002

John Robert Oviedo (physical therapy) of Columbia, S.C., is a travel/contract physical therapist.

Christina "Christy" Craver Payne (BS health information management) of Raleigh is a biological products sales specialist with Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines. She and husband, John, an ECU graduate, had their first child, Connor Robert, in December 2006.

2003

Steven Todd Hobgood (BS physician assistant studies) of Rocky Mount is a Brody School of Medicine student and a family medicine provider in Zebulon. He and his wife had their first child, Logan Zachary, on Jan. 14, 2006.

Faye Clark McWilliams (BS health information management) of Rocky Mount was married April 21 to DeTron McWilliams ('02). She works at Wilson Medical Center.

Danielle Davies Parrish (physician assistant studies) is a physician assistant in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery.

Heather Connelly Yarnot (speech language pathology) of Mooresville has started a private practice speech company.

2004

Djamila Avery (MS occupational therapy)



Angie Childers (MS Rehabilitation Counseling '05), third from left front row, spent part of February 2007 in Nepal leading substance-abuse training seminars. She is a certified rehabilitation counselor and licensed clinical addiction specialist for the McLeod Addictive Disease Center in Boone.

of San Antonio, Texas, is working in nursing and developing a corporate wellness program.

Amber Rouse Johnson (BS health information management) is a coder with ECU Psychiatry and was married March 18, 2006, to Chris Johnson.

Jennifer Smith (physical therapy) of Batavia, N.Y., works at an outpatient sports orthopedics clinic.

Ashley Wagoner Lentz (BS health information management) is associate project manager in public health sciences at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. She married Jimmy Lentz on Nov. 10.

2005

Sarah Baker Briley (physical therapy) of Winterville is a physical therapist at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. She married John Keynon Briley, an ECU alumnus, on Aug. 5, 2006.

Billy Collins (MS physician assistant studies) of Rocky Mount is working in occupational medicine in Roanoke Rapids.

Jessica Brynn Johnston (rehabilitation services) is an occupational therapy graduate student at Lenoir Rhyne College.

2006

K. Jason Berry (BS health services management) is an administrator with Kinston Medical Specialists in Kinston.

2007

Tammy Wooten Clay (BS health services management) of Raleigh is an administrator at Duke University.

Freya Hardy (BS health services management) of Durham is a quality assurance manager with Arbor Healthcare.

Debbie Rogers Hodges (BS health services management) married Wayland Hodges on Sept. 1 in Washington.

Jamie Staton Jenkins (BS health services management) married husband, Nic, on April 29, 2006. She is chief radiation therapist at Franklin Regional Cancer Treatment Center in Louisburg.

Jessica Lea Smith (MS speech language and auditory pathology) of Pfafftown is a speech language pathologist in the Guilford County Schools.

Marsha Tart (BS health information management) is a science teacher at Lakewood High School in Salemburg.

Beverly Whichard (BS health services management) of Greenville is a compliance verification officer and graduate student.

Stacy Wilson (MS communication sciences and disorders) of Fayetteville is a speech language pathologist in a private practice for special needs children.

Jaclyn Winder (BS health services management) is office manager of Orthotics & Prosthetics East in Greenville.

New faculty, retiring faculty

The College of Allied Health Sciences announces the following additions: **Don Michael Bradley, Robert James Campbell, David Cistola, Mary K. Crozier, Michael H. Kennedy and Qiang Wu.**



Don Michael Bradley

Don Michael Bradley, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, holds a bachelor's of business administration from East Texas State

University, a master's degree in accounting from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, a master's in occupational therapy from Texas Woman's University and is pursuing his doctoral degree in occupational therapy from TWU.



Robert James Campbell

Robert James Campbell is assistant professor in the Department of Health Services and Information Management. Campbell received his bachelor's

degree in politics and public policy from Bethany College, a master's in library and information science and doctor of education in instructional design and technology from the University of Pittsburgh.

David Cistola is professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science and associate dean of research for the College of Allied Health Sciences. He also is a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology

in the Brody School of Medicine. Cistola received a bachelor's in biochemistry

from State University of New York at Binghamton. He graduated with a medical degree and a doctoral degree in biochemistry and biophysics from Boston University.

Mary K. Crozier is associate professor and coordinator of the Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate Program in the Department of Rehabilitation Studies. Crozier received her bachelor's degree in

sociology from Old Dominion University, master's in counseling education from the University of Virginia and doctorate in counseling education from the College of William and Mary.

Michael H. Kennedy, associate professor in the Department of Health Services and Information Management, has 31 years' experience in teaching and health services administration in academia and the military. He

was director of the doctoral health administration program at Central Michigan University, taught in the health services administration program at Slippery Rock University and was deputy director of the U.S. Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in health care administration.

Qiang Wu, assistant professor in the Department of Biostatistics, received his master's and doctoral degrees in statistics from the University of Pittsburgh. As a

graduate student, he provided statistical consultation in post-mortem psychiatric

research. His dissertation focused on clustering subjects with schizophrenia into possible heterogeneous groups. His research interests include multivariate data analysis, model-based clustering and statistical applications in neurology.



Holbert tees up for retirement

Dr. Don Holbert is changing his surroundings from purple and gold to blue and green. After 24 years at East Carolina University, the biostatistics professor is retiring.

"I love being around the water and boats, so I'll be doing more of that than I've

been able to do during my working years," Holbert said. "I also love to travel, to see other places, to learn about other cultures, and to visit friends and family, so I'm sure I'll be doing more of that. And I suspect I'll play a little more golf than I have recently."

Holbert arrived at ECU in 1984 and was promoted to professor in 1989. He guessed he has taught 1,500 students, served on 50 graduate students committees and worked on 50 or more data analysis and interpretation projects.

Significant changes during his career have involved the rapid development of software for statistical computing and graphics. "It is always a struggle to stay abreast of these developments," Holbert said.

Looking back, Holbert said his career at ECU has been rewarding. "I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with many fine faculty colleagues and students, and I look forward to continuing these associations during my retirement."



Don Holbert

Alliance is published annually by the East Carolina University College of Allied Health Sciences for alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the school. Send your story ideas or comments to the Editor, Office of News and Information, Division of Health Sciences, Lakeside Annex #3, 600 Moye Boulevard, Greenville, NC 27834, 252-744-3764, or e-mail baityc@ecu.edu.

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Calendar 2008 - Allied health celebrates 40 years

April	
20-26	National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week
29	Occupational Therapy Graduate Student Research Symposium
	National Occupational Therapy Month
May	
9	College of Allied Health Sciences Graduate Recognition Ceremony
10	ECU Spring Commencement
	National Better Hearing and Speech Month
September	
21-27	National Rehabilitation Awareness Week
October	
6-11	National Physician Assistant Week
	College of Allied Health Sciences Homecoming Alumni Celebration
	College of Allied Health Sciences Annual Family Picnic
	National Physical Therapy Month
November	
2-8	National Health Information and Technology Week
	Allied Health Professions Week
7	4th annual Rehabilitation and Allied Health Research Day



More than 150 people attended an open house and awards ceremony sponsored by the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation as part of the 40th anniversary of the College of Allied Health Sciences during the university's homecoming Oct. 27. "We all have a lot to be proud of," said Dr. Stephen Thomas, dean of allied health sciences. Added Dr. Beth Vilde, professor and assistant dean of special projects: "We share a common history and experience. You are our ambassadors and without you people wouldn't know the good work of the College of Allied Health Sciences."



Memories of you.

Things change but you can still keep in touch. In each issue of Alliance, we share news with your classmates wherever they are. We love photos, so send them along with your latest news by e-mail to baityc@ecu.edu or mail to Alliance Class Notes, Attn. Crystal Baity, editor, Health Sciences News, Lakeside Annex #3, 600 Moye Blvd., Greenville NC 27834.

We look forward to hearing your news!



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